

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DHA-02 /022 W  
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R 201455Z MAY 76  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5716

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

( ) Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ( ) In Part ( ) In Full

( ) Classify as ( ) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 3346

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, PINS, SHUM, AR  
SUBJECT: VIOLENCE AGAINST ARGENTINE JEWS

REF: BUENOS AIRES 3002

1. LEON TIEFFENBERG TOLD EMBOFF MAY 18 THAT LAST WEEK HE WAS ABLE TO SEE HIS SON BY BRIBING A GUARD. ACCORDING TO TIEFFENBERG, HIS SON IS BEING HELD BY MILITARY AUTHORITIES IN LA PLATA, AND HAS BEEN SUBJECTED TO VARIOUS FORMS OF TORTURE. TIEFFENBERG SAID SON CLAIMED AUTHORITIES ARE NOT ACCUSING HIM OF CONNECTIONS WITH SUBVERSIVE GROUPS AND HAVE NOT EVEN RAISED THE QUESTION OF HIS COMMUNIST AFFILIATION; RATHER, QUESTIONS THEY HAVE PUT TO HIM DURING INTERROGATION HAVE HAD TO DO WITH HIS AND FATHER'S ALLEGED ACTIVITIES IN FAVOR OF ISRAEL. FATHER CLAIMS SON TOLD HIM INTERROGATORS CALLED HIM "JEW DOG" WHILE ADMINISTERING BEATINGS AND ELECTRIC SHOCK.

2. FATHER, LEON TIEFFENBERG, IS EXTREMELY DISTURBED NOT ONLY OVER HIS SON'S SITUATION, BUT OVER WHAT HE REGARDS AS POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE POGROM. TIEFFENBERG WAS QUICK TO SAY THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE HIS SON'S TREATMENT REFLECTED THE OFFICIAL LINE OF THE NEW GOA. ON THE CONTRARY, HE SAID HE WAS SURE PRESIDENT VIDELA AND MODERATES AROUND HIM WOULD BE SURPRISED AND SHOCKED IF THEY KNEW OF SUCH CASES. PROBLEM, HE SAID, WAS AT LOWEER LEVEL. THERE ARE MANY HARDLINERS IN ARMED FORCES WHO ARE ANTI-SEMITIC AND IN TIEFFENBERG'S OPINION SOME OF THESE, SENSING THAT THERE IS NO SURE HAND AT THE HELM, ARE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION TO VENT THEIR PREJUDICES. HE COMMENTED THAT IF HARDLINERS

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EVER GAIN CONTROL, ARGENTINA WOULD NOT BE A FIT PLACE FOR JEWS TO LIVE; HENCE, HE PLANS TO SELL ALL HIS HOLDINGS, TRY TO GET HIS SON OUT OF JAIL, AND LEAVE THE COUNTRY.

3. EMBASSY HAS CONSULTED WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN ARGENTINA. ON THE BASIS OF THOSE CONSULTATIONS, WE BELIEVE CASE OF JACOBO TIEFFENBERG IS AN ISOLATED ONE WHICH DOES NOT REFLECT THE OFFICIAL POLICIES OR ATTITUDES OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT. EVEN SO, THERE IS SOME EVIDENCE THAT TIEFFENBERG MAY BE RIGHT IN HIS ASSESSMENT THAT CERTAIN ANTI-SEMITIC COMMANDERS ARE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION TO VENT THEIR PERSONAL PREJUDICES. WE UNDERSTAND, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE DAIA IN CORDOBA WAS ARRESTED SHORTLY AFTER THE COUP AND IS STILL BEING HELD ALTHOUGH HE HAS NOT BEEN CHARGED EITHER WITH SUBSERSIVE CONNECTIONS OR WITH CORRUPTION. SEVERAL PROMINENT JEWISH LEADERS IN BUENOS AIRES ARE ASKING THEMSELVES WHETHER HE MAY HAVE BEEN ARRESTED SIMPLY BECAUSE HE IS A JEW.

4. EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW THIS SITUATION CAREFULLY AND REPORT ANY FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS.

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